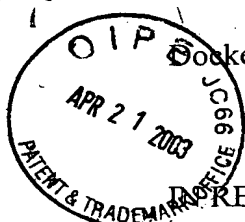


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Socket No.: 197748US0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PRE APPLICATION OF:

Michinobu NAKAMURA, et al. : EXAMINER: AFREMOVA

SERIAL NO.: 09/674,280 :

FILED: DECEMBER 21, 2000 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1651

FOR: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING PROTEIN HYDROLYZATE

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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Official Action dated October 21, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims have been reproduced hereinbelow. Please amend the claims as shown in the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

7. (Twice Amended) A method for producing hydrolyzed protein by subjecting a vegetable protein material containing saccharides to enzymatic hydrolysis, comprising:

(1) conducting cultivation of a koji mold in a submerged culture fermenter-type reaction vessel to obtain a fungal culture;

(2) mixing a dispersion of said vegetable protein material with said fungal culture to obtain a mixture; and

DI